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March 9, 2012

Dear Immunization Provider:

In accordance with State Regulation 61-8, the 2012-2013 "Required Standards of Immunization for School Attendance" and the "Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance" are enclosed. These requirements are effective for the 2012-2013 school year.

The application of these schedules is determined by the child's class enrollment, not by the child's age.

- ❖ Day Care Requirements: Apply to children enrolled in Pre K, and 4K programs, and younger, even if attendance is in a school setting.
- ❖ School Requirements: Apply to children enrolled in 5 year old kindergarten through Grade 12.

As a reminder, doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid according to the minimum age(s) and intervals as published by the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended immunization schedules.

- ❖ The "grace period" is still applicable; vaccine doses administered \leq 4 days before the minimum age or interval are considered valid.

Changes for the 2012-2013 school year include:

- ❖ The addition of TWELFTH grade to the requirement for one (1) dose of varicella vaccine or positive history of disease.
- ❖ The addition of EIGHTH grade to the requirements for four (4) doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

Please also encourage the receipt of the following CDC/ACIP-recommended preteen/adolescent and catch-up vaccines: tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap), meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV), and second dose of varicella zoster vaccine (VZV).

Required Change for the 2013-2014 school year:

SC DHEC is providing important information in advance of a future immunization requirement. **This requirement does not apply to the 2012-2013 school year but will begin with the 2013-2014 school year.**

- ❖ *One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) administered on or after the 7th birthday will be required for all seventh graders. It is strongly recommended that adolescents who have not yet received a dose of Tdap vaccine be immunized in advance of this requirement.*

DHEC appreciates your continued encouragement of all your patients receiving vaccines according to the recommended schedule whether or not currently required for school entry. Please communicate this information as you deem appropriate. Procedural and other questions may be directed to the Regional Immunization Program Manager for each Public Health Region as shown on the DHEC Immunization Webpage "contacts" tab @ <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/immunization/contacts.htm> or DHEC's Immunization Division in Columbia at 898-0460 or 1-800-277-4687 (1-800-27-SHOTS).

Sincerely,

Lisa F. Waddell, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner for Health Services

Leanne S. Bailey, RN, MPH
Director, Immunization Division



2012-2013 REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following schedule of required vaccinations, screenings, and immunizations necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades five year old kindergarten through twelve (5K-12).

Minimum Requirements*:

Vaccine for:	Grade	Grade Level Requirements:
		<i>Note: Grade level requirements apply to all students entering or retained in the grades specified.</i>
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis	5K – 8	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. NOTE: For unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children 7 years of age and older, refer to currently published ACIP Catch-Up Schedule for number of doses necessary to complete diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis series and meet this requirement.
	9 – 12	Three (3) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.
Polio	5K	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. The final dose in the IPV (polio) series should be administered at 4 years of age or older, regardless of the number of previous doses.
	1-12	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. Students already enrolled in grades 1-12 are in compliance if they have had: three (3) doses with one dose on or after the fourth birthday OR four (4) doses before the 4 th birthday.
Rubeola (Measles)	5K – 12	Two (2) doses of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least one month.
Rubella (German Measles)	5K – 12	One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.
Mumps	5K – 12	One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday.
Hepatitis B	5K – 12	Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.
Varicella	5K – 12	One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease.

* When issuing a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, doses must be valid doses according to the minimum age(s) and interval(s) noted on the currently published immunization schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age or interval are considered valid.

Exemptions

Students may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

- Medical Contraindication:** An exemption from these immunization requirements due to a medical contraindication described on the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, signed by an individual licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy, or his/her authorized representative, may be granted to a child when the physician or osteopath has determined that a particular vaccine(s) required by this schedule is not advisable for the child. If it is determined that this particular vaccine(s) is no longer contraindicated, the child will be required to have the vaccine(s). The temporary or permanent nature of this exemption shall be noted in the appropriate spaces on the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 1148).
- Religious Exemption:** A South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person *in loco parentis* signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating they are members of a recognized religious denomination in which the tenets and practices of the religious denomination conflict with immunizations. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may only be obtained from the Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Special Exemptions:** A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption, signed by the school principal or his/her authorized representative, may be issued to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records from their former area of residence or to other students who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption may be issued only once and shall be valid for only thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment. At the expiration of this special exemption, the student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption.



2012-2013 REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR DAY CARE ATTENDANCE

Minimum Immunization Requirements for Day Care Attendance

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina Code of Laws children less than six years of age who attend a licensed public or private child day care facility, a registered church or religious child day care facility, or child development program for K4 and younger must present to the day care facility (or school if the program is in a school setting) a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 1148), which assures they are "up-to-date" or "catching-up" on the childhood immunizations recommended and routinely provided by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Minimum Immunization Requirements for the Final Certificate for Day Care Attendance*

Also pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina State Law, DHEC has declared the following required standards of immunization necessary for a child to receive the immunization certificate for day care attendance in South Carolina.

Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, or DTaP vaccine

Three (3) doses of any combination of oral or inactivated Polio vaccine

Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine

Current, age-appropriate *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b conjugate vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule. For children 15-59 months of age who have not yet completed age-appropriate Hib vaccination, one (1) dose of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required.

One (1) dose of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday

One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday

One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday

One (1) dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease.

Current, age-appropriate Pneumococcal vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule.** For children aged 24-59 months who have not yet completed any age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination schedule (PCV7 or PCV13), one (1) dose of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on or after the 2nd birthday is required.

* When issuing a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, doses must be valid doses according to the minimum age(s) and interval(s) noted on the currently published immunization schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age or interval are considered valid.

**A single supplemental dose of 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) is strongly recommended for all children 14-59 months of age who have completed age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination with the 7-valent pneumococcal vaccine (PCV7), but is not required for day care attendance.